



# Michigan Consumers for Healthcare

October 11, 2011

The Honorable Senator Jim Marleau  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to you today on behalf of Michigan Consumers for Healthcare (MCH) and the more than 80 healthcare-oriented organizations that we now represent. MCH is a nonpartisan, nonprofit coalition that serves to address, from a consumer perspective, the opportunities that the Affordable Care (ACA) presents for Michigan citizens.

Our coalition applauds your introduction of SB 693 to establish the MiHealth marketplace as a vital step forward in realizing the potential of the Affordable Care Act in promoting greater access, affordability, competition and transparency in healthcare in our state. MCH supports SB 693 in principle but would recommend further amendments or clarifications to the legislation to make it a more consumer-focused bill. These changes and/or clarifications would include:

- Clarification of rating of health care plans vs certification of health plans and whether certification authority will rest with the MiHealth governing board or the Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation (OFIR)
- The addition of language that provides the MiHealth governing board final authority in accepting OFIR rating and certification recommendations
- Clarifying language that ensures a majority consumer presence on the MiHealth governing board
- The addition of language that establishes automatic enrollment of individuals eligible for Medicaid, MiChild and other subsidized programs
- The addition of language that identifies community based organizations as potential navigators and further mandates specialized training for navigators

Mr. Chairman, MCH congratulates you on the introduction of SB 693 and looks forward to working with you and your esteemed committee members in designing a healthcare marketplace that Michigan can be proud of.

Sincerely,

Don Hazaert  
Director, MCH

